

## Central Africa

### CENTRAL AFRICA



## Countries

- Angola
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Sao Tome and Principe

## Central Africa

3. In the center of this region lies dark and forbidding jungles

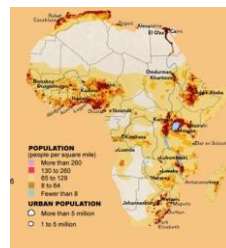
- These areas are almost impossible to travel into
- Around the rainforest are vast areas of savanna grasslands



## Central Africa

4. Urbanization:

- Over the past 50 years, millions have moved into cities
- Some live wealthy lives after working for years in profitable businesses
- Others attempt subsistence-farming...barely hanging onto life



## Geography of Central Africa

- Congo River
  - Second longest river in Africa
  - Created one of the world's largest rain forests
  - Travels from the lakes in East Africa and empties in the Atlantic
  - Hydroelectric power

## Central Africa

- Region built by the Congo:
  - The big river, Congo & its tributaries:
    - Total 9,000 mostly navigable miles
    - Living-Highway providing, food, water and transport



## Central Africa

- Boats travel from areas deep within the country to Kinshasa
- However, below Kinshasa are waterfalls and rapids
- Goods are carried overland by railroads to coastal port-cities



## Congo River

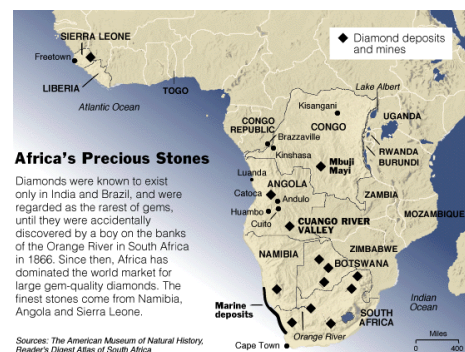


## Central Africa Economy

- Diamond mining!
- Raw Materials

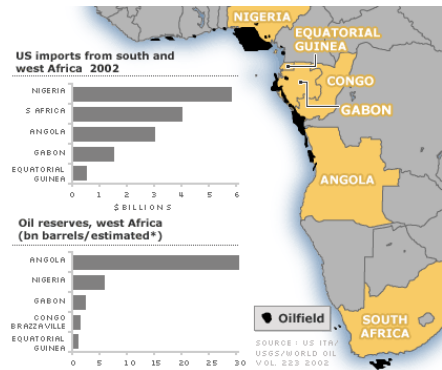


Africa is the world's largest producer of diamonds.





Diamond mining in Africa.



## Agriculture

- A large percentage of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa is engaged in agriculture.
- Subsistence Farming
- Slash and Burn Farming
  - This method of farming is used in the rainforest.

Where do you think these words originated?

- Banjo
- bongos
- Conga
- Gumbo
- Jenga
- Jumbo
- Kwanzaa
- Mambo
- Rumba
- Safari
- Samba
- Zombie

Where do you think these words originated?

- Banjo
- bongos
- Conga
- Gumbo
- Jenga
- Jumbo
- Kwanzaa
- Mambo
- Rumba
- Safari
- Samba
- Zombie

• **Bantu**

## Bantu Vocabulary

- **Bantu**
- **Migration**
- **Bantu migration**
- **Diffusion**
- **Push factors**
- **Pull factors**

## The Bantu Migrations

- **Number of groups in Africa spoke related languages**
  - Originated from language called Proto-Bantu
  - Developed in what is now Cameroon, Nigeria
  - Over time more than 2,000 **Bantu** languages developed

## Bantu-speaking Peoples

### *Bantu Social Systems*

- By AD 900s, Bantu-speaking peoples had established complex social systems
- Women farmed, men mostly tended cattle
- Cattle important food source, used in ritual sacrifices
- Status in Bantu societies determined by size of cattle herds

## TRADITIONAL BELIEFS

- Many worship their dead parents and grandparents
  - Called Ancestor worship
- Also worship the “spirit” contained within the sky, rivers, trees, etc.
  - Called Animism
- Social customs, beliefs and economic systems lead to large families

## TRADITIONAL ROLES

- Role of women is changing:
  - Grow crops to feed their families
  - Established cooperatives
    - Cooperative: People cooperate in business
  - Control the markets where food is bought and sold
  - Major owners of small business

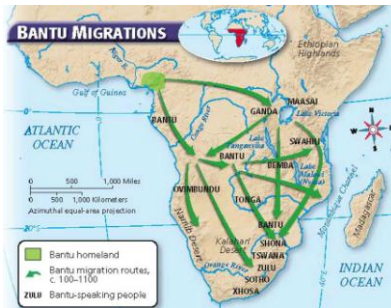


## Bantu Migrations

- Bantu Language groups
- 2000 BCE
- People moved southward from Nigeria
- Key event in Africa's history
- Bantu languages
  - 120 million people

## Migrations

- Bantu-speaking people gradually migrated east, south during first centuries
- As they traveled, Bantu speakers carried knowledge of agriculture, ironworking
- Because of knowledge, established themselves as dominant group when they reached southern Africa



## Why did they move?

### Push/Pull Factor

- Push factors- a feature or event that pushes a person away from or encourages a person to leave their current residence
- Pull factors- a feature or event that attracts a person to move to another area

## Push Factors

- Population increases
- Environmental stress
  - Resources of support have diminished or become inadequate
- Climate changes
  - Expanding Sahara
- Finding a better place to live

## Why did they move?

- Drought and famine
- Population increase which resulted into over crowding
- The constant attacks (external pressure) from stronger tribes in West Africa and the Nile valley.
- Internal conflicts from the Bantu tribes
- Epidemics and diseases/natural calamities
- Search for fertile land
- Love for adventure
- Group influence
- Need for water and pasture for their animals forced them to move.
- The Bantu migrated in order to export their iron-working culture.



## Bantu and Iron

- They had discovered the knowledge of iron working and had invented iron tools.
- These iron tools had transformed the agricultural sector by making the clearing of land for cultivation faster and more efficient.

### Africa's Iron Age

The spread of iron technology after the 500s BC changed farming practices in sub-Saharan Africa. As a result, African society changed.

#### Iron Technology

- 500 BC, techniques for refining iron from iron ore changed
- Now possible to produce tools, weapons superior to those they had made before
- **Nok** one of earliest known peoples to practice ironworking
- Lived in what is now Nigeria, West Africa; learned to make iron tools, weapons

#### Population Growth

- As better-equipped farmers, hunters, warriors, Nok grew in power
- Became known for making fine sculptures out of terra-cotta
- Iron tools enabled Africans to cut down trees, clear land, and live in new areas
- Survival easier, Africa's population increased

## Iron Tools



## Why did they move?

- It is believed that the migration was spurred by climatic changes, which made the area known as the Sahara Desert too dry to live in.
- People moved south out of the Sahara into the Bantu's homeland, which in turn caused them to move to the forest of Central Africa, then eventually beyond the forest to the east and south.

- However, not all the Bantu speakers moved away. Further north in the upper Niger valley can be found the remains of Jenne-Jeno, believed to be the first city in sub-Saharan Africa.



## The Move

- Where: All over Africa!
- When: 1000 B.C.
- What: Bantu Migration
- How: Probably walking or camel
- Why: No one knows for sure!



"It's too hot! Let's move somewhere else!"

## What's the Big Deal?



- They were the first to develop language and provides a clue when tracing the developments in Africa's civilization.
- They were the first farmers and cattle-keepers
- One of the greatest mass movement of people in history!

## Accomplishments

- This migration was the largest in history.
- The Bantu people settled in sub-Saharan Africa
- They also influenced two-thirds of African language.



## Bantu Migration

- Bantu groups brought their ideas about government:
  - Styles of leadership- chieftaincy
    - Centralized government
  - Organizing campaigns for battles
  - Kinds of advanced religions

## The Ethnic Groups of the Bantu

- The ethnic groups of the Eastern Bantu include:
  - Xhosa
  - Zulu
  - Kikuyu
  - Shona
- The ethnic groups of the Western Bantu include:
  - Herero
  - Tonga
  - Bunyoro
  - Banyankole



What would be some effects of this movement?

### Positive Effects

- Introduction of iron working:
  - increase in food production.
- Introduction of new crops e.g. yams, bananas:
  - Iron Technology
  - Earlier on, the inhabitants of East Africa were food gatherers, but with iron smelting and its results, food production seriously started.
- The absorbed other tribes e.g. the gathers:
  - This led to a widespread Bantu languages of “NTU” prefix in East Africa.
- They introduced centralized administration
  - king acted as the overall ruler, under whom were the other chiefs. down to the lav person.

### Positive Effects

- Introduced a system of building permanent homes
  - System of clans, families, and villages
- Subsistence Agriculture
- They led to a rise of large states and bigger tribes in East Africa,
  - Baganda, Kikuyu, Nyamwezi. e.t.c

### Negative Effects

- The Bantu migration led to depopulation:
  - Wars
  - Cannibalism!
- There was loss of culture due to cultural absorption:
  - This was brought about due to Bantu intermarrying with the non- Bantu peoples, whom they came across.
- There was transformation of languages into new ones:
  - This led to the dying down of some of the Bantu languages, while others remained.
-



## Diffusion

- Agriculture, ironworking technology spread throughout Africa because of migration
- Sharing of cultures, ideas, languages, religions, technology, customs, traditions, food...

## Answer these questions for HW!

1. Who are the Bantu?
2. What are some reasons that caused them to move from their homeland?
3. Describe the movement and settlement of Bantu people in E. Africa.
4. What were the effects of their movement and settlement on the people of East Africa.

## Ethnic Groups of Middle Africa

- More than 80 groups today
- Gbaya (33%)
- Mandjia
- Banda
- Sara
- Pygmies
- Bantu
- Yakoma
- Mboum



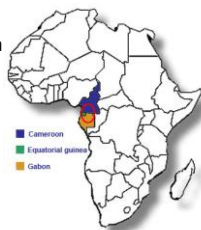
## Fang Ethnic Group

- Gabon
- Bantu Migration
- Cannibalism
- Polygamy
  - Women farm, more wives=more workers
- Slash and Burn farming
- Huts
- Animism/Ancestral
- Eat Goliath Frogs



## Central African Art

- Many countries banned Western influences on their art
  - Mobutu Sese Seko launched a program to promote African culture



## Fang Sculpture

- Fang Sculpture
  - Fang: Gabon, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea
  - Carvings
  - Wooden masks
  - Make boxes of bones of their ancestors!
- The skulls and long bones of these men were believed to retain power and to have control over the well-being of the family.





## Trade

- Ivory and Slaves

## COLONIAL INFLUENCE

### Cultural Motives

In addition to practical matters of economics and politics, the new imperialism was motivated by cultural attitudes.

#### Cultural Motives

- European imperialists felt superior to non-European peoples
- Some began to argue humanity divided into distinct peoples, races
- Claimed biological differences existed between races
- Racist view—people of European descent superior to people of African, Asian descent

#### Rule Justified

- As result, some Europeans believed rule in Africa justified
- Teaching Africans good government
- Some imperialists believed actions noble, their duty to educate those considered inferior
- Referred to their influence in Africa as “the white man’s burden,” after poem by Rudyard Kipling

## Middle Passage Statistics

- 10-16 million Africans forcibly transported across the Atlantic from 1500-1900.
- 2 million died during the Middle Passage (10-15%)
- Another 15-30% dies during the march to the coast.
- For every 100 slaves that reached the New World, another 40 died in Africa or during the Middle Passage.

### Justification

#### Darwin

- Defenders of imperialism often applied Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection to struggle between nations, races
- Darwin argued species more fit for environment will survive, reproduce

#### Social Darwinism

- **Social Darwinism** notion stated certain nations, races more fit than others
- Social Darwinists believed “fit” nations came to rule over “less fit” nations, often showed discrimination against citizens of ruled nations

#### Cecil Rhodes

- Social Darwinism advocate **Cecil Rhodes**, “*I contend that we are the finest race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better...*”
- Believed British-built railway would bring benefits of civilization to all Africans

## Slave trade

- Central Africa was ethnically diverse
- 15<sup>th</sup> Century
- King Leopold II of Belgium
  - Forced labor to gather rubber, palm oil, ivory
- African protests against the slave trade
- Berlin Conference



## Leopold II and the Congo

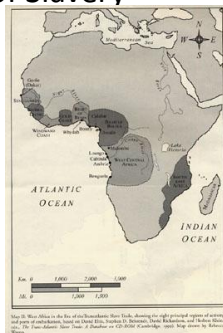
- Rationale: protect Africans from Arab slave traders, convert Congolese to Christianity, and to bestow blessing of capitalism
- Reality: Congo Free State was labor camp
  - Rape and torture were routine
- Rubber quotas were imposed and workers failing to meet them had their hands chopped off

## Leopold II of Belgium, 1835-1909



## Geography of Slavery

- Enslaved Africans mostly came from the area stretching from the Senegal River in Africa to Angola.
- Europeans divided the area into five regions:
  - Upper Guinea Coast
  - Ivory Coast
  - Lower Guinea Coast
  - Gabon
  - Angola

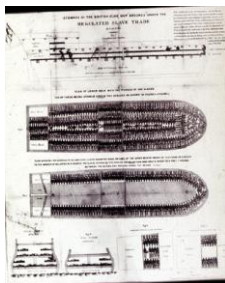


## Middle Passage

### Conditions on Board the Ship

- Slaves chained together and crammed into spaces sometimes less than five feet high.
- Slavers packed three or four hundred Africans into the ship cargo holds.
- Little ventilation, human waste, horrific odors. Unclean.

## British Slave Ship



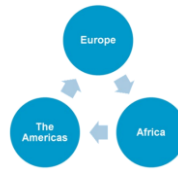
## Middle Passage

- Tight packing - belly to back, chained in twos, wrist to ankle (660+), naked.
- Loose packing - shoulder to shoulder chained wrist to wrist or ankle to ankle.
- Men and woman separated (men placed towards bow, women toward stern).
- Fed once or twice a day and brought on deck for limited times.

## Middle Passage

- Journey lasted 6-8 weeks.
- Due to high mortality rate, cargo was insured (reimbursed for drowning accidents but not for deaths from disease or sickness)
- Common to dump your cargo for sickness or food shortages.
- Slave mutinies on board ships were common (1 out of every 10 voyages across the Atlantic experience a revolt).
- Covert resistance (attempted suicide, jumped overboard, refusal to eat).

## Slave



**TO BE SOLD** on board the  
Ship *Bance Island*, on Tuesday the 6th  
of May next, at *Ashley Ferry*; a choice  
cargo of about 150 fine healthy  
**NEGROES**,  
just arrived from the  
Windward & Rice Coast.  
—The utmost care has  
already been taken, and  
shall be continued, to keep them free from  
the least danger of being infected with the  
SMALL-POX, no boat having been on  
board, and all other communication with  
people from *Charles-Town* prevented.  
*Aulin, Laurens, & Appleby.*  
N. B. Full one Half of the above Negroes have had the  
SMALL-POX in their own Country.

- What is the first thought you had when you read this?
- How would a wealthy colonial American have looked at this?
- What would an African think when they saw this?

## Legacy of Slavery

<b>Agriculture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rice</li> <li>• Sweet Potatoes</li> <li>• Herding</li> <li>• Basketry</li> <li>• Working Style (cooperative labor)</li> <li>• Planting (heel to toe)</li> </ul>	<b>Food</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spices (red pepper, sesame, cajun)</li> <li>• Okra, black eyed peas</li> <li>• Rice</li> </ul>	<b>Dishes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gumbo, jambalaya</li> <li>• Ash and hot cakes</li> <li>• Sweet potato pie</li> </ul>
<b>Music</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banjo</li> <li>• Drum</li> <li>• Blues/Jazz</li> <li>• Call and response</li> <li>• Spirituals</li> </ul>	<b>Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call and response patterns</li> <li>• Emotional services</li> <li>• Multiple spirits and souls</li> <li>• Voodoo</li> </ul>	<b>Tales and Words</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trickster tales (Anansi the Spider, Brer Rabbit, Bugs Bunny)</li> <li>• Words like bogus, bug, phony, yam, tote, gumbo, tater, jamboree, jazz.</li> <li>• Creole Language</li> </ul>

## Effects of Colonialism

- Borders posed problems!
  - Disrupted long-standing systems of government
  - Did not consider ethnic regions!
- Before colonization, decisions were made by tribe of elders
  - Democracy of age!
  - Stateless society!

## Economic Effects

- Lack of infrastructure
- Rely on export of raw materials
- Loss of resources
- Disruption of political system
- Cultural/ethnic oppression
- Congo

## For Example: Congo

- Gold, copper, diamonds, rubber
- Mobutu Sese Seko (1967-1997) made the businesses under national control
  - Corrupt! Began accepting bribes.
- Laurent Kabila
  - Led to more violence
- 1999, Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Chad, Rwanda, and Uganda were competing for territory and resources in Congo

### Belgian Congo

#### Leopold

- Central Africa's Congo Free State not ruled by European country
- King of Belgium, **Leopold II**, claimed territory for himself
- Leopold created personal fortune exploiting Congo's natural resources for himself

#### Demand for Rubber

- 1890s, early 1900s, European, American demand for rubber increased
- To meet demand, Leopold forced Congolese subjects to extract rubber from region's rubber trees; millions died from overwork, disease
- Eventually international outcry caused Belgian government to take control of Congo, 1908

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

- A Troubled Giant: D.R.C.
  - History is marked by civil-war and coups
  - After gaining independence from Belgium, a 4-year civil-war broke out
  - Some groups hired mercenaries to fight
    - Mercenaries: Paid, hired soldiers

## DRC

- Eventually, a military-dictator named General Mobutu came to power
- The economy improved little, and eventually began to fail
- Soon the country was in debt for billions of dollars
- But, somehow General Mobutu increased his wealth by billions

## DRC

- The country's economy was in ruins
- People began to barter when the money became worthless
  - Barter: Trading goods for other goods without money
- Government changed hands again in 1997 and 2004
- The country is still in great economic/political trouble

## In conclusion:

- Central or Middle Africa is shaped by:
  - Geography
    - Congo River
  - Bantu Migrations
  - Colonial History